



Region 7

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Fact Sheet

March 2004

Five-Year Review Completed Lehigh Portland Cement Company Superfund Site Mason City, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts regular checkups, called five-year reviews, on certain Superfund sites. These reviews are required by the Superfund law [42 U.S.C. § 9621(c)]. EPA Region 7 has completed the first five-year review of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company Superfund site. This site is in Mason City, Iowa.

EPA conducted the five-year review to make sure the cleanup remains protective of human health and the environment.

BACKGROUND

The Lehigh Portland Cement Company Site in Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa is a cement manufacturing site which has been operating since 1911 and covers about 150 acres at the plant site and portions of the Lime Creek Nature Center. The site was used for disposal of waste cement kiln dust (CKD). Problems with the site were first identified in 1981 during a routine test of Blue Waters Pond located on the site. In 1984, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducted a study on Calmus Creek that found surface water contamination. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site was completed in 1991. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by EPA on June 28, 1991 that selected hydraulic isolation and capping of the CKD as the remedial alternative for the site.

Under a September 29, 1992 Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO), the Remedial

Design (RD) was completed in 1994 and the Remedial Action (RA) construction was started. The RA consisted of consolidating and isolating with a clay cap between one and two million tons of CKD, dewatering various ponds located on the site, treatment of extracted water, construction of a sump, lowering of the water table at the site, and monitoring the groundwater.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

During the review, EPA studied information on the site and made inspections of the site to ensure the remedy continues to be protective. The assessment of the review found that the remedy was constructed in accordance with the requirements of the ROD. The remedy is functioning as designed. The immediate threats have been addressed and the remedy is protective.

Due to the fact that hazardous substances remain on site, additional five-year reviews will be required. The next review is scheduled to be conducted in 2007.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The five-year review report can be reviewed at the following locations:

Mason City Public Library
225 2nd Street SE
Mason City, Iowa

EPA Record Center
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

This five-year review report may also be accessed at the following web address:

<http://www.epa.gov/region07/superfund/index.htm>
(under the heading of FIVE- YEAR REVIEW REPORTS).

If you have questions or need more information on the Lehigh Portland Cement Company Superfund Site or the five-year review process, please contact:

Fritz Hirter
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Phone: 913-551-7003 or
Toll Free: 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: hirter.fritz@epa.gov